

## **Religious Networking and Power dynamics between Historic denominations and African Pentecostal Churches in London**

Babatunde Adedibu

The Christian landscape in North America and Europe particularly London has been redefined due to the emplacement and proliferation of Pentecostalism from the Global South particularly African Pentecostalism. The changing ecclesial landscape is not only demographical changes but to a large extent, these churches have assuaged the numerical growth of churchmanship in their context. African Pentecostal churches are not only purveyors of church growth in London but they have distinctive socio-cultural, religious idiosyncrasies, religious commodification and proselytization. Despite almost a century of existence of African Pentecostal churches in London, the churches are still in the margins of religious economy in Britain. The marginalisation stems from social, economic, geographical and political discontinuities in the host context experienced by members and leadership of these churches. Although, networking between historic denominations in London and African Pentecostal denominations might be construed as ecumenical engagement. However, this study argues through the lens Yong Jung Lee concept of marginality that African Pentecostal churches and their leaders are caught in the continuum of centre and margin of power dynamics of historic denominations as they are perceived as tokens of political correctness and ecumenical photo shoots without commensurate power sharing and mutual benefit in ecumenical engagement.

**Keywords: Religious Networking; Power Dynamics; Historic denominations, African Pentecostal Churches, London**